(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Kargil misadventure by Pakistan resulted in a major defeat for that country, both on the diplomatic and the military front. As a face saving measure, they have embarked upon a renewed campaign to step up militancy in J&K, to project that J&K continues to remain a "flash point" requiring intervention by the International community.

Attempts are being made by Pakistan to give a further impetus to terrorist activities in the State of J&K over the past few months. Pakistan Army is training, arming, financing and infiltrating terrorists across the Line of Control.

Adequate measures have been taken to check infiltration from across the border and to tackle the problem of terrorism in J&K. There tier deployment is being maintained and operations are carried out in the hinterland to deal with terrorists who have infiltrated.

Review of National Security System

3392. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are undertaking time bound steps in reviewing the National Security System through independent body, as suggested by Kargil Review Commiteee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government has in view of the importance and sensitivity of the subject and after careful consideration of the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and other relevant aspects decided that the national security system in its entirety by thoroughly reviewed by a Group of Minister headed by the Home Affairs with Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister as its members.

Use of arms in elections

3393. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to prevent use and show of arms and weapons during electioneering and polling; and

(b) whether any amendments have been or are being made to prevent use of arms to ensure free and fair elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India issues instructions from time to time to the State Governments for putting restrictions on possession of arms during the period commencing with the date of announcement of election till the completion of the elections. These instructions have been recently further modified in the light of observations of the Supreme Court of India in C.A. No. 4298 of 1994, providing that prohibitory orders may be passed by the District Magistrate under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure where he considers it necessary so to do.

Modernisation of State police forces

3394. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how much funds have been spent on modernisation of State police forces by the Central Government during the last five years;

(b) the details of comparative funds spent in Punjab; and

(c) how much funds are required to being the State Police Forces to the level of modern technology and in what manner Government propose to provide the same during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) A sum of Rs.264.50 crores was released to the State Governments under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces during the last five years, i.e. from 1995-96 to 1999-2000. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 538.60 lakhs was released to the State Government of Punjab.

(b) The Central Government is also implementing with effect from the financial year 1997-98, a special scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces in the North-East under which arms and ammunition, vehicle and communication and other equipment are provided in kind. The expenditure incurred under this Scheme during 1997-98, to 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 35.63 crores, Rs. 12.48 crores and Rs. 50.87 crores respectively.

It may be pointed out that the Finance Commission has also been making allocations in favour of the State Government for improving their policing infrastructure.